

A TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT

RUSSIAN PAPER'S OPINION OF NEUTRALITY OUTCRY.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 13.—The danger of serious complications over the question of French neutrality is regarded as over for the present. Throughout there has been a disposition to make allowance for the vexation and irritation manifested by Japan in the desire to safeguard her interests at a moment when the future of the war is staked upon the issue of the coming naval battle. Nevertheless, her willingness to assume a menacing attitude toward France upon the strength of the British alliance is regarded as being an eye-opener for the powers.

Despite the provocative tone of the British press, however, the British government used its influence at Tokyo in a pacific direction. However, the harsh things said of both France and Russia in the British papers have, so far as the Russian paper is concerned, served to still further inflame the feeling of hostility against Great Britain, which has always been regarded as Russia's arch enemy.

Premier Balfour's speech in the house of commons May 10 (on the defense of India) from this standpoint came at a particularly inopportune time and the comments of some of the American papers which have been carried here have also aroused some resentment.

The Novoe Vremya announces that the incident is closed, adding: "Japan will be obliged to dictate to France in order to seal the union with Great Britain, and then have in her pocket the apple of discord of Paris, the past and the future of the world. Now, if instead of bombardments and embargoes, Japan has been ready to accept from France the statement contained in the yellow book, it is reasonable to infer that Great Britain has given Japan to understand that she does not care to rush into a war with France, and that the incident was only a tempest in a teapot."

BOYCOTT AGAINST FRENCH WITHDRAWN.

TOKYO, May 13.—A committee of the constitutional party called on Premier Katsura today and discussed the French neutrality incident. The premier assured the committee that the government was exerting its best efforts in behalf of the country, and explained the various steps taken.

The committee, reporting to the organization later, expressed satisfaction with the actions and attitude of the government. As a result of the recent developments the resolution introduced in the chamber of commerce, providing for the boycott of French commerce, has been withdrawn.

TOME INSTITUTE MEET.

Central High School Boy Tied for Second Place.

PORT DEPOSIT, Md., May 13.—The third annual interscholastic field and track meet of the Jacob Tome Institute was held this afternoon, a large crowd witnessing the sports in which representatives of twenty-two schools competed.

The Central High School of Philadelphia carried off first honors, Tome Institute being a close second, followed by the Baltimore City College.

R. A. Gamble of Tome Institute won the individual championship cup. T. Wiltshire of the "Reds" (Baltimore) was second, Kent of the Washington Central High School and H. W. Haydock of the Philadelphia Central High School were tied for the second place.

Five interscholastic records were broken—the 220-yard hurdle, mile run, broad jump, pole vault and 12-pound hammer.

The number of points scored by the first three contesting schools is as follows: Central High School of Philadelphia, 26; Tome Institute, 26; Baltimore City College, 15.

CECILIA'S WEDDING GOWN.

Declared to Be an International Composition—Sultan's Gifts.

BERLIN, May 13.—The wedding dress of Duchess Cecilia of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, who is to be married June 6 to the German Crown Prince Frederick William, will be an international composition. The Grand Duchess Anastasia has had the material, so-called cloth of silver in Russia for \$2,600. It has been embroidered with wonderful garlands of silver by German needlewomen, and has been made by a famous dressmaker in Paris.

The court train is after the fashion of the one worn by the Empress Josephine at the time of her coronation, but modified to recent empire styles. The crown prince objected to puffed sleeves, and they accordingly have been abbreviated.

The Sultan of Turkey is sending the crown prince and Duchess Cecilia a number of splendid gifts and porcelains. The bearer of these gifts will be Turkish Pasha, the sultan's representative at the wedding. Turkish Pasha will be attended by Abdulhamid Pasha, a general of division.

BAPTIST CHURCHWOMEN.

Election of Officers of the Missionary Union.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 13.—The Woman's Missionary Union of the South Baptist Church has elected the following officers:

Mrs. J. A. Barker, Clifton Forge, Va., president. The vice presidents include Mrs. D. M. Malone, Alabama; Mrs. E. L. Longley, Arkansas; Mrs. C. F. Winbaker, District of Columbia; Mrs. W. S. Shipley, Florida; Mrs. J. D. Esterlin, Georgia; Mrs. James Tyler, Maryland; Miss F. S. Heck, North Carolina; Miss Mary Jayne, Oklahoma; Mrs. J. S. Chapman, South Carolina; Mrs. A. J. Wheeler, Tennessee; and Mrs. W. S. Leake, Virginia. Corresponding secretary, Mrs. A. S. H. Armstrong, Baltimore; recording secretary, Mrs. E. C. Johnson, Maryland; treasurer, Miss E. M. Ricker, Maryland.

SECRETARY WILSON SPEAKS.

Talks of Agricultural Conditions in Oklahoma.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., May 13.—Secretary of Agriculture Wilson and officers of the Department of Agriculture, who are investigating agricultural conditions in the southwest and conducting a campaign of education for the benefit of farmers and planters, arrived this afternoon from Little Rock, Ark. A good-sized crowd of farmers from various parts of Oklahoma heard addresses by Secretary Wilson and attaches of the department.

Secretary Wilson talked of agricultural conditions in the territory and gave the farmers suggestions as to care of crops. Prof. John F. Adams of the Oklahoma College of Agriculture and M. A. Carlson of Amarillo, Texas, spoke thence tomorrow for Texas, where a visit to the experimental station will be made, after which a trip through Kansas will begin.

LEROY R. TITUS DEAD.

Was One of President Lincoln's Special Bodyguard.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., May 13.—Leroy R. Titus, a civil war veteran, who was for several months one of President Lincoln's special bodyguard, died here suddenly last night, aged fifty-eight years.

AMERICAN CONSUL MARRIED.

Wedded at London to Olive Malvery, the Singer.

Special Correspondence to The Star.

LONDON, May 13.—Mr. Mackinder, American consul at Muscat, and Olive Malvery, the temperance lecturer and singer, were married today at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster. Mrs. Malvery sang several solos. The bride carried a bouquet of roses, the gift of Hoxton flower girls, of whom the twenty youngest formed the bride's escort, instead of bridesmaids.

PLANS MADE FOR RALLY.

Alexandria County Teachers' Institute Holds Meeting.

The regular monthly meeting of the Alexandria County Teachers' Institute was held at Del Ray in the Mt. Vernon Avenue School house Friday, with Prof. A. B. Weeks the chair. The meeting opened at 10:30 a.m. and closed at 12:30 p.m. In planning for a grand rally of teachers and others interested in the subject of education, to be held in the Mt. Vernon Avenue School house at Del Ray on Friday, May 19.

Several of the most noted educators in the state are expected to address the meeting, and the teachers by motion resolved themselves into a committee, each member of which pledged himself to invite to the meeting all his friends and neighbors interested in public education.

Among other educators the desire was expressed that Superintendent James E. Clements, who will address the meeting of Alexandria city address the meeting, and the secretary was directed to send Col. Kemper an urgent invitation to be present with his teachers.

The following committees were appointed to promote the plans for the rally: Committee on music, Misses Ann Gresham, Florence Mountjoy, Annie Foster; committee on reception, Misses Hayden, Gresham, Bashford.

A resolution was passed providing that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to draw up a memorial to the various schools of Alexandria, county and city, requesting them to make appointments of teachers as early in the month of June as possible. The chair appointed Prof. Weeks, Prof. E. S. Stalup and Miss Grigg a committee for this purpose.

Lunch was served from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. At 1:30 p.m. the subject, "Duties of Parents," was taken up and talks upon this topic were given by Prof. Weeks, Mr. A. P. Douglas.

About 2:30 p.m. Superintendent James E. Clements, who will address the meeting of Alexandria city address the meeting, and the secretary was directed to send Col. Kemper an urgent invitation to be present with his teachers.

The institute adjourned to meet at a rally at Mount Vernon Avenue School house, Del Ray, Friday, May 19, 1905.

TRIALS BY COURT-MARTIAL.

Gen. Grant Passes Upon Findings in Number of Cases.

Brig. Gen. Grant, commanding the Department of the East, has acted upon the following court-martial cases recently tried at posts in this vicinity:

Sergeant Logan H. Bennett, Company G, 2d Battalion of Engineers, at Washington Barracks, was found guilty of suffering a prisoner to escape and sentenced to be reduced to the grade of second-class private and to forfeit \$10 per month for four months.

Second-class Private Julius Rogers, Company F, 2d Battalion of Engineers, also at Washington Barracks, was found not guilty of desertion, but guilty of absence without leave and of conduct unbecoming an officer and soldier, and sentenced to be confined at hard labor for four months and to forfeit \$10 of his pay per month for five months.

Private William Bowyer, 2d Battery, Field Artillery, who was found guilty of desertion, was sentenced to be confined at hard labor for one year.

Corporal Edwin W. Blatz, 4th Company, Coast Artillery, at Fort Washington, Md., was found guilty of desertion and embezzlement, was sentenced to be dishonorably discharged, forfeiting all pay and allowances due him, and to be confined at hard labor for two years. The sentence in each of the foregoing cases was approved by Gen. Grant.

Private Edward L. Marsh, 3d Battery, Field Artillery, at Fort Myer, Va., was found guilty of desertion and sentenced to be confined at hard labor for six months, but in consideration of the short service of the accused the forfeiture was reduced to \$10 per month for three months.

Privates James M. Roche, Troop B, 7th Cavalry, and Frederick E. Kaskas, Troop C, 7th Cavalry, were also tried at Fort Myer, Va., on different charges. Private Roche was found guilty of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, and of drunkenness on duty. He was sentenced to be dishonorably discharged, forfeiting all pay and allowances due him, and to be confined at hard labor for six months. The sentence was reduced to confinement at hard labor for six months and to forfeit \$10 per month for six months.

Private Kast was found not guilty of desertion, but guilty of absence without leave, and sentenced to be dishonorably discharged, forfeiting all pay and allowances due him, and to be confined at hard labor for three months, and to have the amount paid for the application of the court-martial of himself and guard stopped against him. Gen. Grant did not agree with the court's findings that this soldier was not a deserter, but approved the sentence.

Memorial Services.

Arrangements have been made for the holding of memorial services in remembrance of the members of Kilt Carson Post, No. 2, Grand Army of the Republic, who have died during the past twelve months, this evening at 8 o'clock, in the Memorial Lutheran Church, 14th street and Vermont avenue, north of the Capitol.

Members of the Grand Army of the Republic are expected to attend these services. The members are requested to wear the badge, and to assemble at 7:30 in the chapel, entrance on Vermont avenue.

The call is signed by E. Douglass King, post commander, and Chas. F. Keefe, adjutant.

The list of deceased members is: John J. Shane, died June 9, 1904; Francis J. Keller, died July 1, 1904; William H. C. Jones, died August 14, 1904; Franklin B. S. Sear, died August 20, 1904; William H. Doolittle, died October 17, 1904; Thomas H. Sherwood, died February 9, 1905; Charles J. Curtin, died February 25, 1905; David C. King, died March 1, 1905; James H. T. Rhodes, died April 4, 1905; Lloyd E. Paine, died April 14, 1905; Delos Halbert, died April 17, 1905.

Wagon Struck by Electric Car.

A two-horse wagon driven by Daniel Brown, colored, of Wheaton, Md., was struck by car No. 363 on the Brightwood line, about 12 o'clock last night, and the wagon was demolished. The driver was seriously injured. His left hip was dislocated, and he received a number of other bruises. The police took him to the Garfield Hospital.

Souvenir Cap Ribbons.

The popularity of naval cap ribbons as souvenirs is shown by the fact that the Navy Department has decided to award such articles for distribution to the navy. The new ribbons will be decorated with pure silver and gold braid. The use of these metals is designed to meet the objection that the present ribbon decorations tarnish too easily.

Instruction of Militiamen.

Arrangements have been made at the War Department for the admission to army service schools June 1 next of such officers of the organized militia of the states and territories as may be recommended by the governing authorities. The service schools referred to are the Army Medical School at Washington, the Infantry and Cavalry School at Fort Leavenworth, the Artillery School at Fort Monroe and certain designated garrison schools.

Indian Campaign Badges.

It is probable that the general staff of the army will recommend that service in campaigns against the Indians be recognized by appropriate badges in the same way as service rendered during the Spanish war and the Philippine insurrection. It is said that the general staff is now considering the question of such a badge, and that the building is to be built of brick.

FERRY HOUSE REMOVED.

EXCAVATIONS DISCLOSE REMAINS OF OLD WHARF.

Within the past week all traces of the old ferry house of the Alexandria and Washington ferry line, at the foot of M street southwest, have been removed, the ground cleaned up and the foundation timbers for the handsome ferry building which is to be erected by the Norfolk and Washington Steamboat Company have been placed in position, and the work of preparation for the erection of the new building is going ahead rapidly.

The excavations in the old wharf cut, where the new ferry slip is to go, are also being pushed, and within the next day or two the dredging machine will be put to work deepening the slip to the required depth required. The piling to be used in the ferryboat slip and in the new wharf is on its way here, and the driving of the piles will be begun some time during the week.

Within the next month the slip will be well advanced toward completion, and before the Fourth of July the side-wheel steamer that is to give service while the new steel steamer is being built will be expected, he running on the ferry route.

Manager Callahan states that when the slips begin to assume shape he will go on to New York to arrange for the bringing here of the boat he can procure for the service. He anticipates no trouble in securing a new and high side-wheel ferry boats, which have become too small for the service in which they were employed, have been discarded on the New York ferries within the past month. The boats are all in excellent condition for service, and the fastest and best one of them will be brought here unless the plans of the Norfolk and Washington Steamboat Company are changed.

With Architect Holtzclaw, who is superintending the new building work of the ferry terminal, went to Alexandria yesterday, and mapped out the improvements that are to be made in the ferry slip and house there.

It was understood the work of rebuilding the Alexandria terminal will be started during this week, and as the work to be done there is much less than at the Washington end it will be completed before the slip here is ready for use.

In making the excavations for the new slip at the same date, but through unavoidable causes the work on the Connecticut was not actually begun at the New York navy yard until the work on the rival slip had been under way for two months.

During that period the Louisiana advanced twelve per cent toward completion. As showing how the Connecticut has since gained on the rival vessel, the chief naval constructor says that there is now but 1.27 per cent difference in the rate of progress on both vessels. The Louisiana is 74.35 per cent completed and the Connecticut is 73.08 per cent completed. During the past month the Connecticut advanced 3.32 per cent, while the advance made by the Louisiana was but 2.43 per cent. It thus appears that both vessels are three-fourths finished, and that the government contractors at the New York navy yard have a good chance of beating their rival in the matter of speed.

The respective merits of the ships can only be determined by an actual trial under service conditions at sea. Each is required to make a speed of eighteen knots an hour, and it remains to be seen whether either or both of them can equal or exceed that rate of speed. The result of the friendly contest in shipbuilding has been watched with great interest by naval officers and all persons interested in ship construction.

It will be of interest to canoeists generally to know that the negotiations entered into last fall between the Inter-club Canoe Association and the canal management for the use of the canal have been completed with a satisfactory result. The Inter-club Canoe Association has secured for its members much better terms than have heretofore been granted the individual canoeists.

The committee which has been in charge was composed of Mr. Adrian Sight, commodore of the association, and Mr. Willard Fracker.

The canal company was at first inclined to bar all canoeists from the use of the canal on account of abuse of privileges by some of the canoeists, and also on account of the large amount of water necessary to lock a canoe through, as compared with locking a canal boat.

Upon the recommendation of the committee that members of the association would respect the necessary rules of the road and that they would be responsible for any indebtedness incurred on the part of individual members, the canal company was induced to make terms even more liberal than those previously offered.

Upon presentation of membership cards at Willard's lock way bills will be issued, good for use up to day of issue only. The return trip to be made at pleasure of the canoeist.

Marine Corps Orders.

Capt. Smedley D. Butler, from the Lancaster to duty with the 1st Brigade Marines, Philippine Islands.

Second Lieut. John Newton, Jr., from the marine barracks at Washington, Pa., to the marine barracks at Mare Island, Cal., to the Philippine Islands.

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RAILWAY IMPROVEMENT.

Fill Constructed on the Washington Southern Railroad.

The fill constructed by the Washington Southern Railroad Company engineers across Gravelly run, south of Alexandria, Va., on the Virginia side of the river, has been completed. The embankment is being extended across the island toward the new railway bridge. Within the next month this portion will also be completed.

In starting the embankment across Gravelly run, the engineers, last winter, laid rails on the ice and ran the construction train out upon it. The embankment stands twenty feet higher than the surrounding ground. It is stated that after the completion of the railway work the low ground on the new embankment to the Alexandria-Washington pike will be filled in and raised above tide water level. All the new railway work between this city and Alexandria is now rapidly approaching completion, and it is stated the new tracks from Washington to Richmond will be put in service before the Fourth of July.

Large forces of men, working night and day, are hurrying the work along in order to get it completed at the earliest possible date.

RACE OF THE SHIPYARDS.

Construction of the Connecticut Gaining on the Louisiana.

Rear Admiral Capps, chief of the bureau of construction and repair, has made a report to the Secretary of the Navy showing the rate of progress made on all vessels under construction at various yards for the United States navy. Probably the most interesting fact shown by this report is that the battleship Connecticut at the New York navy yard is gaining on the battleship Louisiana, being built by the Newport News Ship Building and Dry Dock Company.

These two vessels are being built in competition for the purpose of demonstrating whether it is better for the government to build its own warships or to have them constructed at private yards by contract. The Connecticut and Louisiana are sister ships, identical in every particular and the competition in their construction is particularly keen. The essential points on which the contest are workmanship, cost and time required for completion.

The work upon them was supposed to have begun on the same date, but through unavoidable causes the work on the Connecticut was not actually begun at the New York navy yard until the work on the rival slip had been under way for two months.

During that period the Louisiana advanced twelve per cent toward completion. As showing how the Connecticut has since gained on the rival vessel, the chief naval constructor says that there is now but 1.27 per cent difference in the rate of progress on both vessels. The Louisiana is 74.35 per cent completed and the Connecticut is 73.08 per cent completed. During the past month the Connecticut advanced 3.32 per cent, while the advance made by the Louisiana was but 2.43 per cent. It thus appears that both vessels are three-fourths finished, and that the government contractors at the New York navy yard have a good chance of beating their rival in the matter of speed.

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SEMI-CENTENNIAL SERVICES.

Celebration by Darnestown Church—

Death of Mrs. Nannie Carr.

Special Correspondence of The Star.

BOYD'S, Md., May 13, 1905.

The services yesterday at Darnestown, in celebration of the semi-centennial of the anniversary of the Darnestown Presbyterian Church, attracted a very large crowd from every section of the county. The celebration was in commemoration of the founding of that church in 1855. It was organized in a little log school house at Pleasant Hill, and two years later the present church was built. The oldest member of the church now living, who has held connection since the birth of the church fifty years ago, is Mrs. Upton Darby of Darnestown, who was yesterday in the service.

The program was as follows: 10:30 a.m. opening service, by Rev. M. L. Fearnow; 11 a.m. historical address by the pastor, Rev. W. H. Stone, anthem, "Glory Be to the Father"; the choir; 11:40 address, "The Church as a Factor in Character Building," by Rev. Dr. P. P. Flournoy of Bethesda; 12 o'clock, the Cross in No Greater; Mrs. Brooke Vincent, Miss Edith Fearnow, M. L. Fearnow. The social hour supper was served at 6 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. instrumental solo, "Abide With Me," was given by Freeman, Miss Windsor, companion; at 8 p.m., an address by the pastor, Rev. W. H. Stone, and the church members Owe It, given by Rev. W. H. Dexter of Takoma, D. C. An address was also delivered at 4 o'clock by the Rev. Dr. H. H. Miller of Washington city. His topic was "The Church and the Individual Member."

The death of Mrs. Nannie Carr yesterday at noon at Waterford, Va., is announced. Mrs. Carr formerly resided at Poolesville, this county. She and Mr. Carr were married a few years ago. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Davis and was in her twenty-fourth year. Her husband had three children, one a year old and an infant one week old, survive her. Mrs. Carr's remains will be brought to Monocacy cemetery at Beallsville, this county, for interment Sunday afternoon.

Miscellaneous Games.